



**CENTER OF EXCELLENCE**  
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**ASIA-PACIFIC DISEASE OUTBREAK  
/SURVEILLANCE REPORT**

**Week of Oct 25, 2004**

**BANGLADESH**

**Diarrhea and Pneumonia Kill 80 and Affect 75,000 People in 10 months in Bangladesh**

Diarrhea and pneumonia have killed 80 people and sickened up to 75,000 others in nine upazilas in Bangladesh between January and October. Special medical teams have been working at the field level to treat the diarrhea patients. Physicians believe the diarrhea outbreak is due to intake of contaminated food and pond water. In the Shergur municipal area (central Bangladesh), Sribordi, Nakla, Nalitabari and the Sadar upazila are the worst affected. Diarrhea killed 5 people and affected over 1,500 others during the past week in Bogra (northern district of Bangladesh). Over 250 people were admitted to hospitals in the past two days. The affected areas are Sadar, Shibganj, Gabtali, Sariakandi, Dhunot, Shergur, Kahalu, Dupchachia and Sonatala.

**Source:**

· News From Bangladesh, Oct 29, 2004, <http://www.bangladesh-web.com/view.php?hidDate=2004-10-29&hidType=NAT&hidRecord=0000000000000000000026538>

**CHINA**

**Bubonic Plague Kills 8 in China**

Eight people have died from an outbreak of bubonic plague in northwestern China (Qinghai province). Health authorities say the disease is now under control. Nineteen cases were reported this month and 11 people recovered. Most patients were farmers, the rest were infected after hunting or eating marmots (a burrowing rodent). According to the World Health Organization, bubonic plague occurs in China and other parts of the world. As long as authorities identify the disease early and take prompt measures, it can be controlled quickly. Bubonic plague results from an insect bite in which the plague bacillus travels through the lymphatic system to the nearest lymph node where it forms a swelling. It is transmitted between rodents by fleas and can be passed to humans through a flea bite. Untreated, the mortality rate can reach 60%.

**Source:**

· Utusan Online, Oct 27, 2004,

[http://www.utusan.com.my/utusan/content.asp?y=2004&dt=1028&pub=Utusan\\_Express&sec=Discoveries&pg=di\\_05.htm](http://www.utusan.com.my/utusan/content.asp?y=2004&dt=1028&pub=Utusan_Express&sec=Discoveries&pg=di_05.htm)

## INDIA

### Dengue and Malaria Spreading in Maharashtra State, India

The aftermath of the monsoon rains has resulted in 1,400 cases of dengue being recorded in Maharashtra's (west-central India) public hospitals. The worst affected areas are urban centers (e.g. Mumbai, Pune, Akola and Nashik). The spread of malaria is also serious with private doctors in Mumbai reporting as many as 10-15 cases of falciparum malaria per day. The dengue virus is transmitted to humans through the female Aedes mosquito. Infected people may suffer severe body ache, fever, headache, flu, pain around the eyes, muscle and joint pains and rash. In the more severe form, hemorrhagic dengue fever, internal bleeding may occur with a high mortality rate. Malaria is caused by the female anopheles mosquito and its typical symptoms include high fever and shaking chills.

**Source:**

· Hindustan Times, Oct 27, 2004, [http://www.hindustantimes.com/news/181\\_1076299,000900040001.htm](http://www.hindustantimes.com/news/181_1076299,000900040001.htm)

### 32 Children Die of Undiagnosed Illness in Western Uttar Pradesh, India

Thirty-two children have died of an undiagnosed illness over the past week, while several others have been admitted to hospitals in western Uttar Pradesh (northern India). The disease has symptoms similar to those of encephalitis, meningitis and cholera. Over 100 children with complaints of severe headache, fever and vomiting were brought to healthcare centers and hospitals in Meerut, Baghpat, Muzaffarnagar and Garhmukteshwar districts. The disease, characterized by inflammation of the brain membranes and patients vomiting blood, is prevalent among those residing in unhygienic conditions.

**Source:**

· Hindustan Times, Oct 23, 2004, [http://www.hindustantimes.com/news/181\\_1071417,000900010004.htm](http://www.hindustantimes.com/news/181_1071417,000900010004.htm)

## INDONESIA

### 6 People Die after Eating Anthrax-Infected Meat in Indonesia

Blood tests have confirmed that anthrax caused the deaths of 6 people, after they ate meat from an infected goat. Six Bogor area (60 km south of Jakarta) villagers, 5 of them related, died after consuming intestine meat contaminated by anthrax last week. The government has isolated the area, distributed 300 000 doses of vaccine across the nation, and has warned people to report immediately to health facilities if they notice any early symptoms or see them in livestock. The isolation period is set for the next 3 months. Anthrax is endemic in several provinces in Indonesia, including West Java, Central Java, Yogyakarta, South Sulawesi, Central Sulawesi, Southeast Sulawesi, and East Nusa Tenggara.

**Source:**

· Saudi Press Agency, Oct 23, 2004, <http://www.spa.gov.sa/newsview.php?extend.212755>

· Promed Mail, Oct 24, 2004,

[http://www.promedmail.org/pls/askus/f?p=2400:1001:16641176710968803060::NO::F2400\\_P1001\\_BACK\\_PAGE,F2400\\_P1001\\_PUB\\_MAIL\\_ID:1010,27011](http://www.promedmail.org/pls/askus/f?p=2400:1001:16641176710968803060::NO::F2400_P1001_BACK_PAGE,F2400_P1001_PUB_MAIL_ID:1010,27011)

· Reuters, Oct 25, 2004, <http://www.reuters.com>

· The Star Online, Oct 26, 2004, <http://thestar.com.my/news/story.asp?file=/2004/10/26/asia/9229531&sec=asia>

· Promed Mail, Oct 25, 2004,

[http://www.promedmail.org/pls/askus/f?p=2400:1001:6681409884998085504::NO::F2400\\_P1001\\_BACK\\_PAGE,F2400\\_P1001\\_PUB\\_MAIL\\_ID:1010,27016](http://www.promedmail.org/pls/askus/f?p=2400:1001:6681409884998085504::NO::F2400_P1001_BACK_PAGE,F2400_P1001_PUB_MAIL_ID:1010,27016)

## **MALAYSIA**

### **Malaysian Government Orders Steps to Control Dengue Fever**

The Malaysian government is concerned over the drastic increase in the number of dengue cases in the past three years and has directed all the relevant agencies to immediately take steps to control the situation and destroy all aedes mosquito breeding grounds. There has been a serious increase in the number of dengue cases in the country since 2000 where 3,723 cases were reported. By last year, the number had increased to 15,442 cases with 72 deaths, including 24 children. This year, a total of 53 people died of dengue fever to date. As a long-term effort to curb this problem, the local governments have been directed to ensure that the designs for all future projects in their areas must not have any potential mosquito breeding grounds such as open gutters, tanks and sand-traps.

**Source:**

· The Star Online, Oct 29, 2004, <http://thestar.com.my/news/story.asp?file=/2004/10/29/latest/19496Government&sec=latest>  
· Utusan Online, Oct 29, 2004, [http://www.utusan.com.my/utusan/content.asp?y=2004&dt=1030&pub=Utusan\\_Express&sec=Discoveries&pg=di\\_01.htm](http://www.utusan.com.my/utusan/content.asp?y=2004&dt=1030&pub=Utusan_Express&sec=Discoveries&pg=di_01.htm)

### **23 Percent of Bazaar Food Contaminated with E. coli in Terengganu, Malaysia**

Food sold at Ramadan bazaars of Terengganu (east coast of the Malaysia peninsula) may not be hygienic. A check by the Terengganu Health Department found nearly ¼ of the food contaminated with Escherichia coli. Eighty one samples of food sold in the first 11 days of the fasting month were analyzed, and 23% was found contaminated with E. coli while 5% had Staphylococcus aureus. S. aureus and E. coli can cause skin infections, food poisoning or diarrhea. Contaminated samples included 'agar-agar', 'onde-onde', 'kuih nekbat', tomato chicken, sugarcane juice, 'nira' juice, meat curry, 'kerabu perut' (intestines with vegetable salad), 'asam gumpal' and 'kuih butir nangka'. In the first nine days of Ramadan, a check on 1,231 business premises resulted in 32 workers being fined for not having Typhi-V inoculation and not wearing aprons.

**Source:**

· Utusan Online, Oct 26, 2004, [http://www.utusan.com.my/utusan/content.asp?y=2004&dt=1027&pub=Utusan\\_Express&sec=Discoveries&pg=di\\_02.htm](http://www.utusan.com.my/utusan/content.asp?y=2004&dt=1027&pub=Utusan_Express&sec=Discoveries&pg=di_02.htm)

## **PAKISTAN**

### **Pakistan Continues Struggle with Polio**

Pakistan has failed to achieve its target of eradicating polio, despite aggressive efforts in the last 10 years. Since 1994, 48 vaccination campaigns have been held across the country, but polio cases are still being reported. According to the World Health Organization (WHO), 32 cases of polio were reported this year up to September - mostly from Sindh (southern Pakistan). There is some question as to the effectiveness of the polio vaccine being used in Pakistan. Polio eradication has become a challenge for health authorities, who had earlier promised to make Pakistan polio free by 2000. The target was first pushed to 2002 and then to December 2004. However, health officials say the target might have to be revised again. Barring Afghanistan, where an uncertain situation prevails, Pakistan, India and Nigeria are the only three countries where polio vaccinations are still ongoing.

**Source:**

· Hindustan Times, Oct 25, 2004, [http://www.hindustantimes.com/news/181\\_1072839,0050.htm](http://www.hindustantimes.com/news/181_1072839,0050.htm)

## SINGAPORE

### Cholera Outbreak Over in Singapore

The Singapore Health Ministry has announced that the two-week cholera outbreak is over and that contaminated seafood was to blame. The rare outbreak infected nine people, including an 89-year-old man who died from the illness. The victim, who came down with diarrhea on 4 October was hospitalized and died on 13 October from cholera (confirmed by stool culture). This is Singapore's first outbreak of the disease since 1999, when eight people suffered the illness. Cholera is an acute disease brought on by consuming food or water contaminated with the bacteria, *Vibrio cholerae*. The symptoms are vomiting and painless diarrhea that quickly worsens. The ministry has strongly advised the public to eat only cooked food and to avoid eating undercooked seafood.

**Source:**

· Utusan Online, Oct 27, 2004,

[http://www.utusan.com.my/utusan/content.asp?v=2004&dt=1028&pub=Utusan\\_Express&sec=Discoveries&pg=di\\_04.htm](http://www.utusan.com.my/utusan/content.asp?v=2004&dt=1028&pub=Utusan_Express&sec=Discoveries&pg=di_04.htm)

## THAILAND

### Fatal Case of Avian Influenza Confirmed in Thailand

The Ministry of Public Health in Thailand has confirmed an additional fatal case of human infection with H5N1 avian influenza. The patient was a 14-year-old girl from the Sukhothai Province (northern Thailand). She developed symptoms on 8 October 2004 and died on 19 October 2004. Chickens at her household died suddenly in late September 2004. This latest death brings the total number of cases in Thailand to 17, of which 12 have been fatal. As of 25 October 2004, the cumulative numbers of confirmed cases and deaths of avian influenza A (H5N1) virus infection in East Asia are 44 cases and 32 deaths (confined to Thailand and Viet Nam).

**Source:**

· Promed Mail, Oct 25, 2004,

[http://www.promedmail.org/pls/askus/f?p=2400:1001:16641176710968803060::NO::F2400\\_P1001\\_BACK\\_PAGE,F2400\\_P1001\\_PUB\\_MAIL\\_ID:1000,27014](http://www.promedmail.org/pls/askus/f?p=2400:1001:16641176710968803060::NO::F2400_P1001_BACK_PAGE,F2400_P1001_PUB_MAIL_ID:1000,27014)

· WHO Website, Oct 25, 2004, [http://www.who.int/csr/disease/avian\\_influenza/country/cases\\_table\\_2004\\_10\\_25/en/](http://www.who.int/csr/disease/avian_influenza/country/cases_table_2004_10_25/en/)

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